



NATIONAL
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SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Week of: Oct 31-Nov 5, 2006

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 5, 2006

Most areas of the Commonwealth experienced cool, dry weather conditions that were good for harvest and other field work. Days suitable for field work were 5.6. The state only received an average of 0.25 inches of rainfall this week. The average high temperature this week was 74 degrees, with lows well below freezing. Pastures have had good growing conditions this fall and continued to do well this week. Cattle producers in some areas have begun to feed hay due to short pastures, while cattle in other areas have been able to remain on pasture. Cattle are reported to be in good condition, with many going to market over the past few weeks. The weather has allowed for some late hay harvest to take place this week. Small grain crops are reported to look good as planting continues. High grain prices and state incentive programs have likely influenced small grain planting decisions this year. Weather conditions also allowed for progress to be made in soybean and corn harvest. Some areas have reported good soybean yields, while other yields are reported to be below average due to the dry summer growing conditions. Vegetable producers are harvesting broccoli. Producers are gearing up for winter meetings that are being planned. Other farm activities this week included fall calving and soil sampling, as well as breeding sheep, planting cover crops, spreading lime, and cutting wood in preparation for the winter season.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
October 8, 2006	0	2	78	20
October 15, 2006	0	2	82	16
October 22, 2006	0	2	82	16
October 29, 2006	0	1	77	22
November 5, 2006	0	1	84	15

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WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 5, 2006

WEATHER STATION	TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit)				PRECIPITATION (inches)		
	HI	LO	Average	Departure from Normal	TOTAL	Departure from Normal	Days
NORTHERN							
Woodstock	74	21	46	-5	0.56	-0.14	1
Warrenton	74	23	48	-4	0.35	-0.48	1
Winchester 7 SE	74	20	46	-3	0.56	-0.20	2
Dale Enterprises	72	21	46	-4	0.02	-0.68	1
WESTERN							
Glasgow	78	23	48	-3	0.31	-0.43	1
Roanoke AP	75	24	50	-2	0.24	-0.58	1
Waynesboro	72	19	45	-3	0.30	-0.47	1
Staunton AG	72	20	47	-1	0.23	-0.54	1
CENTRAL							
Charlottesville	75	21	50	-4	0.14	-0.67	1
Piedmont Res ST	74	24	49	-2	0.21	-0.70	1
Bremo Bluff	78	22	51	-2	0.42	-0.46	2
Richmond AP	76	30	53	0	0.00	-0.77	0
EASTERN							
Eastville	71	31	53	-4	0.00	-0.63	0
Wallops Island	73	29	51	-6	0.00	-0.63	0
Williamsburg	74	28	50	-6	0.00	-0.76	0
Keysville	75	24	50	-2	0.00	-0.82	0
SOUTHWESTERN							
Blacksburg AG	70	20	44	-3	0.52	-0.23	1
Wytheville	70	18	43	-4	0.43	-0.28	1
Saltville	69	20	45	-4	0.50	-0.27	1
Richlands	68	20	43	-1	0.64	-0.13	2
SOUTHERN							
Stuart	77	23	49	-3	0.40	-0.46	2
Danville AG	76	25	50	-4	0.26	-0.51	1
Chatham	75	20	47	-4	0.28	-0.56	1
Martinsville	75	19	48	-3	0.66	-0.14	2
SOUTHEASTERN							
Norfolk VA	75	32	54	-3	0.00	-0.63	0
Oceana	75	31	54	-4	0.00	-0.70	0
Emporia	76	28	52	-2	0.00	-0.78	0
Newport News	77	32	56	0	0.00	-0.63	0

Departure from normal based on 1961-90 normals.

Precipitation Days=Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	0	2	15	70	13
Other Hay	2	11	33	42	12
Alfalfa Hay	3	13	37	36	11
Soybeans	8	20	38	29	5
Winter Wheat	0	3	38	52	7
Barley	0	0	33	56	11

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Grain Harvested	87	82	100	95
Winter Wheat Seeded	56	42	58	56
Winter Wheat Emerged	29	19	0	19
Barley Seeded	93	89	93	92
Peanuts Dug	95	86	99	98
Peanuts Combined	89	70	93	90
Cotton Harvested	57	42	61	61
Winter Apples Harvested	96	93	88	97
Beef Cattle Forage % Obtained from Pastures	86	0	NA	NA
Milk Cow Forge % Obtained from Pastures	32	0	NA	NA
Sheep Forage % Obtained from Pastures	88	0	NA	NA

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by Extension Agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

CULPEPER COUNTY (Carl Stafford):

Cooling temps slowed grass re-growth. Stockpile prospects are excellent. Grain harvest is progressing rapidly, and winter annuals are up after planting.

HIGHLAND COUNTY (Rodney Leech):

The last cattle sale was held for the year. Producers are marketing stock, fall calving, breeding sheep and cutting wood in preparation for the winter season.

CAROLINE COUNTY (McGann Saphir):

Farmers are planting cover crops, harvesting soybeans, and planting wheat. Winter grain crops look good to excellent, as do pastures and hayfields.

ACCOMACK COUNTY (James N. Belote):

Heavy rains of 2 inches or more slowed field work and crop harvesting. Soybean yields are lower than expected so far. Late planted beans will be below average. The corn crop was average or above. Many tomato fields have not yet been cleaned up due to wet weather. Farmers may plant more wheat due to higher prices. Good weather predicted for the coming week should help speed up soybean harvest, and with the lower yields, this year's harvest might be over rather quickly once growers get a good spell of clear and dry weather.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY, cont.

KING GEORGE COUNTY (Regina Prunty):

Bean harvest began this week. Some farmers began seeding wheat.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY (David Moore):

Wheat planting is well underway with many producers finishing up. We had better soybean harvesting weather this week. Sprinkles on Thursday gave way to cool and windy conditions that are perfect for bean harvest. Soybean yields continue to be fair to very good. Lime spreading and soil sampling continues. Bushhogging and farm spruce up continues. Some hay still being made. Planting cover crops also continues.

NEW KENT COUNTY (Paul Davis):

Producers are finishing picking cotton and the last of the corn; they are midway through soybean harvest with yields below average due to the hot and dry July and August growing conditions. Barley fields are up and 75% of the wheat crop is in the ground. More small grain cover crops are being planted this year because of the State Cost-Share BMP incentive program. Grain prices are higher than they have been for years and hope producers are taking advantage of the futures prices.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY (Sam Johnson):

We had a good dry week for harvest of corn and soybeans. Most of the corn is done. Good strides were made on the bean crop. Some good soybean yields were reported. We had some wheat beans in the 50's. Small grain planting continues. Harvest of broccoli continues.

PULASKI COUNTY (Mike Fisher):

The cold nights have begun to "bite" at the forages, but on the positive side they are also taking a toll on the weeds and thistles. Some producers are feeding hay to their livestock as a result of short and/or weak pastures due to two dry summers.

Corn harvest is progressing slowly with some farmers trying to let it dry in the field as long as possible.

SMYTH COUNTY (Walter Robinson):

We have had some of the best growing conditions for grass this fall that we have had in years, but at the same time wet conditions have delayed cover crops on the corn land.

WYTHE COUNTY (Joseph W. Massey):

Cold weather prevailed over the past 7 days. Pastures are the main source of feed for animals currently, but are becoming short. Some farms are already feeding from their winter stocks. Shell corn harvest is under way. Corn silage harvest has finished. Cattle are in good shape, with many going to market over the past 30 days.

NOTTOWAY COUNTY (Ron Duvall):

Tobacco harvest is complete. Producers are stripping burley and finishing up field work. Corn and soybean harvest continues. The weather conditions have allowed for some late hay harvest.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY (Cynthia L. Gregg):

Frost has prompted quick leaf changes this week. Producers are working on combining corn and soybeans, getting the harvesting done and small grains planted as soon as possible. Hunting season is getting underway and scouting is going on. Fall and winter meetings are being planned for producers.

SURRY COUNTY (Glenn Slade):

Harvest and small grain seeding is on schedule for this time of year. Soybean and cotton harvest still in full swing. Recent price increases for corn and soybeans help the bottom line.



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